Appendix A: Cognitive Rigor Matrix/Depth of Knowledge

The Common Core State Standards require high-level cognitive demand, such as asking students to demonstrate deeper conceptual understanding through the application of content knowledge and skills to new situations and sustained tasks. For each Assessment Target in this document, the "depth(s) of knowledge" that the student needs to bring to the item/task has been identified, using the Cognitive Rigor Matrix shown below. This matrix draws from two widely accepted measures to describe cognitive rigor: Bloom's (revised) Taxonomy of Educational Objectives and Webb's Depth-of-Knowledge Levels. The Cognitive Rigor Matrix has been developed to integrate these two models as a strategy for analyzing instruction, for influencing teacher lesson planning, and for designing assessment items and tasks.
(To download full article describing the development and uses of the Cognitive Rigor Matrix and other support CRM materials, go to: http://www.nciea.org/publications/cognitiverigorpaper_KH11.pdf

A "Snapshot" of the Cognitive Rigor Matrix (Hess, Carlock, Jones, & Walkup, 2009)

Depth of Thinking (Webb) + Type of Thinking (Revised Bloom, 2001)	DOK Level 1 Recall & Reproduction	DOK Level 2 Basic Skills & Concepts	DOK Level 3 Strategic Thinking & Reasoning	DOK Level 4 Extended Thinking
Remember	- Recall, locate basic facts, definitions, details, events			
Understand	- Select appropriate words for use when intended meaning is clearly evident	- Specify, explain relationships - summarize – identify central ideas	- Explain, generalize, or connect ideas using supporting evidence (quote, text evidence, example…)	- Explain how concepts or ideas specifically relate to other content domains or concepts
Apply	- Use language structure (pre/suffix) or word relationships (synonym/antonym) to determine meaning	– Use context to identify word meanings - Obtain and interpret information using text features	- Use concepts to solve non-routine problems	- Devise an approach among many alternatives to research a novel problem
Analyze	- Identify the kind of information contained in a graphic, table, visual, etc.	– Compare literary elements, facts, terms, events – Analyze format, organization, & text structures	- Analyze or interpret author's craft (e.g., literary devices, viewpoint, or potential bias) to critique a text	– Analyze multiple sources or texts - Analyze complex/ abstract themes
Evaluate			– Cite evidence and develop a logical argument for conjectures based on one text or problem	- Evaluate relevancy, accuracy, & completeness of information across texts/ sources
Create	- Brainstorm ideas, concepts, problems, or perspectives related to a topic or concept	-Generate conjectures or hypotheses based on observations or prior knowledge and experience	-Develop a complex model for a given situation -Develop an alternative solution	-Synthesize information across multiple sources or texts -Articulate a new voice, alternate theme, new knowledge or perspective